



CALPEEK

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ENERGY & POLITICS: ANDAL AND HJTA THREATEN 2002 INITIATIVE TO CUT L.A.'s UTILITY TAX IN HALF.

Editor's note: In Calpeek's April 16th issue, we had a small article about utility user taxes coming under fire from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.(HJTA). Now conservative Board of Equalization Member Dean Andal(R-Stockton) has joined forces with HJTA to threaten a 2002 local initiative to cut L.A. City's 10% utility user tax in half. Here's our update & analysis...

...While Gov. Gray Davis and the Calif. Legislature continue to debate what will and what won't work in terms of solving Calif.'s energy nightmare, the HJTA and Andal are giving the L.A. City Council 6-8 weeks to cut the utility user tax in half or they will launch a initiative for next year's ballot. In a joint statement which didn't get much press attention, HJTA President Jon Coupal and Andal said, "The City of L.A. is placed on notice: taking financial advantage of higher utility rates will not be tolerated... If the council members do not take swift action, we are prepared to put the final decision in the hands of voters."...

...As Calpeek noted previously, it's not only the out of state power generators who are making a killing because of higher electricity and natural gas prices - but also many of Calif. cities (156 cities) which impose utility user taxes. And about 90% of Calif.'s population is subject to such taxes. In L.A., the city hits consumers with a 10% user tax on electricity, natural gas, telephone and cellular phones. And while LADWP customers won't be mashed with high electricity rates, L.A. customers who use *natural gas* will end up paying about \$20 million this year in utility user taxes. There is no utility tax on water usage, which is strange because other cities usually include water...

...So why is Andal all steamed about utility taxes? He sees this as his ticket to the Controller's office in 2002. And he may be correct. Andal is known as an anti-tax crusader and what better way to please voters than to campaign against gouging by L.A. City Hall. And Andal has a campaign warchest to make this initiative threat something that the council can't walk away from...

...FYI: While Andal is calling for a 50% cut in L.A.'s utility user tax rate, Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews(D-Tracy) has introduced AB14x, which would require any local utility user tax on natural gas and electricity to be based on the number of units of power used rather than a percentage of the consumer's total bill. Makes sense. This bill was inserted into an identical bill by Assemblywoman Sally Havice(D-Cerritos). Stay tuned...

L.A. Mayor's Race: LAW & ORDER ISSUES BEGIN TO SPICE UP BATTLE BETWEEN VILLARAIGOSA & HAHN.

Editor's note: Here is Part I of a two-part series. This particular Calpeek update & analysis is about Law & Order and how L.A. Mayoral candidates Jim Hahn and Antonio Villaraigosa stack up against each other. But first, here's the latest polling data. KABC-TV's newest poll (by Survey USA) has Hahn leading: 49% to 46%. Hahn's own polling shows him ahead 49% to 42%, while the Villaraigosa poll has him leading 41% to 40%. The runoff is June 5th...

...When talking about the broad issue of law & order, it's an area that takes in lots of different elements, especially as it relates to this particular contest for mayor of Calif.'s largest city. And here we're talking about 4 different elements: 1) Villaraigosa's voting record which he was in the Assembly; 2) LAPPL (Police Protective League) politics; 3) the Carlos Vignali Pardon; and 4) the LAPD's Rampart Division scandal. We'll cover #1 and #2 this week...

...Villaraigosa's voting record. The surprising thing is that Villaraigosa's voting record didn't surface much during the April 10th primary. It's a *target rich* environment and bet your first born some of his votes will be showcased in Jim Hahn's tv ad campaign. Villaraigosa is a liberal, but instead defending his votes, he's being defensive and trying to play down these votes by pointing to a number of law enforcement officials who have endorsed him, such as Atty.Gen. Bill Lockyer. But the Hahn team did something smart. They assembled a chart comparing Lockyer's State Senate voting record to Villaraigosa's. The 12 bills used for comparison covered gang violence, violent parolees, increasing sentences for drive-by shootings, child abuse penalties and drug deal-

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ing enforcement. These are called *Silver Bullet* bills. Lockyer supported all 12, while Villaraigosa was opposed. Is such a comparison fair game? Absolutely and it happens all the time in legislative politics, where Demos and GOPers routinely bash each other over such bills. Or as the saying goes, "*One man's smear is another man's fact sheet.*"...

...But that's only part of the picture. On *bread & butter* bills relating to working conditions, wages and standards for rank & file police, Villaraigosa gets very high marks. And he gets high marks for supporting most crime infra-structure bills and outright grants to law enforcement. Villaraigosa's biggest ace among cops was his support for SB 402, the binding arbitration bill for cops. So overall Villaraigosa's Sacto voting record is mixed, but not totally negative. But make no mistake, he was not on the same page with most Demos in Sacto when it came to *Silver Bullet* bills...

...L.A. Police Protective League Politics. As it stands now, the Board of Directors of the LAPPL has endorsed Hahn, but the League is currently polling its members before a final endorsement is announced. It's a critical endorsement and both Hahn and Villaraigosa want it badly. The League was neutral in the primary. Prior to their interviews, news media reports gave an edge to Villaraigosa, but Hahn upped the ante by signing a pledge that he would implement *flexible work schedules* for the LAPD within 90 days of taking office. Villaraigosa didn't go as far. In addition, it now looks as though Hahn has backed off his outright support for LAPD Chief Bernie Parks. While the LAPPL hates outgoing Mayor Richard Riordan, that's mild compared to their feelings about Parks. Politically, if Hahn wins the endorsement, it should help solidify his support with GOP voters who backed Steve Soboroff and L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs in the primary. More next week. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: S.F. CITY ATTY. LOUISE RENNE WON'T SEEK REELECTION. ELECTION SET NOV. 5TH.

Editor's note: The big news out of San Francisco is that veteran S.F. City Attorney Louise Renne, 63, has decided not to seek reelection. A mad scramble is now underway. If none of the candidates gets a majority, there will be a Dec. 11th runoff. The Nov. 5th election also will see City Treasurer Susan Leal seeking another term, plus a number of ballot and bond measures. Among the ballot measures is a plan to create a municipal utility district for the city/county of S.F. Here's our brief report...

...Renne has been a fixture in S.F. politics since 1978, when then new Mayor Dianne Feinstein appointed her to the Board of Supes following the assassinations of George Moscone and Harvey Milk. In 1986, Mayor DiFi appointed Renne as

city attorney --- and she's been there ever since. News of Renne's decision caught most insiders off guard...

...Renne has a reputation as being very aggressive and wasn't shy when it came to breaking new legal ground. In 1996, she was the first city attorney to sue big tobacco. That lawsuit brought in \$12 billion. In 2000, she was named one of Calif.'s top 100 attorneys by Calif. Law Business Magazine. Most sources contacted by Calpeek say Renne's move to pass on another term means she's leaving office on a high note. The big question: who is best positioned to replace Renne in November???

...Former S.F. Co. Sup. Annemarie Conroy, one of the few GOPers in S.F. politics, was first to announce. But her political party affiliation probably hurts hers. Sources think former Deputy City Atty. and current Police Commissioner Dennis Herrera is well positioned, as is James Lazarus, U.S. Sen. Feinstein's Bay area chief of staff. Also in the hunt is slow growth attorney Steven Williams; deputy city atty. Mara Rosales; former S.F. Co. Supes Michael Yaki and Leslie Katz; and attorney Neil Eisenberg, who ran against Renne in '93 and got about 30%. There's a voluntary spending cap in this race of \$175,000 and contributions are limited to \$500. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: HENTSCHEL SPENDING BIG BUCKS IN 32ND CD SPECIAL RUNOFF. HIRES GOP ALL-STARS.

Editor's note: Even though most political insiders don't give her much of a shot at beating former State Sen. Dianne Watson (D-L.A.), prominent GOP businesswoman Noel Irwin Hentschel will be spending *mega bucks* in an effort to pull off the political upset of the decade. Here's our brief update and analysis...

...Hentschel and Watson, as well as Green Party nominee Donna Warren and Reform Party nominee Ezola Foster, are vying to replace the late Julian Dixon (D-L.A.) who died in early December of last year. Watson won the April 10th Demo primary over key rivals State Sen. Kevin Murray and L.A. Councilman Nate Holden. Conventional wisdom has always been that whichever Demo won the primary would be a *slam dunk* in the June 5th runoff election...

...Hentschel hopes to prove the political insiders wrong and with her *deep pockets* has hired what one Demo consultant called *The GOP Hall of Fame Team*. Mike Meyers will handle direct mail; Alex Castellanos will produce tv/cable ads; and Frank Luntz will handle polling. Already aboard the campaign were Ed Brookover as cmp. mgr. (he's a former NRCC political director); Sean Walsh as communications director (former press secretary to Gov. Pete Wilson); and

new communications director, Ana Garcia (former KNBC-TV reporter). In addition, Hentschel's getting advice from Stu Spencer. As one GOP source asked Calpeek after hearing this line-up: "Is she running for President?" Calpeek sources bet the price tag of Hentschel's runoff campaign will be more than \$1 million...

...Now to Watson. Her campaign has a modest budget compared to Hentschel's: about \$250,000 to \$300,000. Leo Briones remains the lead consultants, with Fairbank Maslin Maullin on polling and Sue Burnside in charge of GOTV. Watson is well aware of Hentschel's potential, which is why she's kept her primary team in place – despite all the talk that she's got a lock on this election. In other words, Watson won't be caught asleep at the wheel – *a la Elihu Harris*...

...FYI: Hentschel has challenged Watson to a series of 6 debates, to which Watson has said NO. Don't know if this will come back to bite Watson. But always remember this about debates: *the only people who care about debates are candidates who are behind in the polls and the League of Women Voters*. Stay tuned...

49th AD SPECIAL: CAN CHU HOLD OFF A MONSTER INDEP. EXPENDITURE EFFORT FOR ARGUELLO???

Editor's note: With only a week to go before this May 15th special election to replace Gloria Romero(D) in the 49th Assembly District, Monterey Park Councilwoman Judy Chu(D) and Alhambra Councilman Dan Arguello(D) are locked in what sources think will be a close primary, despite the fact that Chu has locked up most of the key endorsements and has a substantial lead in fundraising. Here's our update & analysis...

...In late April Calpeek reported that Chu had won the endorsement of the CA Demo Party. Since that time Chu has picked up the L.A. Co. COPE endorsement and has won key backing from U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis(D). Solis' endorsement is considered *solid gold*. New State Sen. Romero has endorsed both Chu and Arguello...

...Chu also has won backing from the CA Federation of Teachers, CA League of Conservation Voters, NOW, NWPC, L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca, ALADS, L.A. Co. Sup. Don Knabe and loads of local elected officials, including a healthy number of Latinos. And while the 49th AD still has a very big Latino voter registration, about 18% of all registered voters in the 49th AD are Asian. Among Chu's Asian backers are U.S. Reps. Mike Honda and Bob Matsui, plus Assemblymembers Carol Liu, George Nakano and Wilma Chan...

...And Chu has released a poll by GLS Research (Paul

Goodwin), 400 likely voters completed during the week of April 12th. There are only 4 candidates. Chu received 32%; Arguello 18%; Alhambra School Bd. member Bob Miranda 11%; Libertarian Kim Goldsworthy 2%; other 2%; undecided/refused 35%...

... One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to figure out what's going on. The GLS Research memo says it right up front: "Moreover, much of Arguello's Latino vote is siphoned off by Bob Miranda." In fact, some Arguello supporters think Miranda is in the race to as a *decoy Demo*...

...Despite the endorsements, the polling numbers and the fact that Chu is a formidable fundraiser (\$97,316 cash on hand vs. \$2,197 cash on hand for Arguello), sources say Arguello will get a huge assist from the CA Latino Alliance, an independent expenditure cmt. composed of many Demo Latino legislative members. Consultant Richie Ross has resigned as Arguello's regular consultant to handle the IE campaign. Now handling the regular Arguello campaign is consultant Leo Briones. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTION: COUNCIL RUNOFF BATTLES.

Editor's note: This week Calpeek will begin a series of brief updates surrounding the L.A. City Council runoff elections, set for June 5th. Here's our first update...

☒ **3rd District** – L.A. Police Protective League officer Dennis Zine will face former council aide Judith Hirshberg, who finished just 89 votes ahead of Franchine Oschin. The 3rd District has a heavy Demo registration edge and Zine is a GOPer. Organized labor remains neutral. Zine finished first with 27% vs. 22% for Hirshberg. Toss up for now...

☒ **5th District** – Tom Hayden will face Jack Weiss. Hayden has very strong name ID, but there's no middle ground: voters either like him or hate him. Before the primary even started, 2 different polls put Hayden at 29%. He finished with 34% - up 5%. Weiss, a total unknown, finished with 22%. Deep pocketed Ken Gerston and Steve Saltzman both fizzled badly after spending a ton. Calpeek sources say a number of well known Jewish leaders will come out strongly for Weiss. U.S. Rep. Howard Berman announced his support 5/2/01. Leans Hayden unless Weiss can make the argument that Hayden would rather be demonstrating with Ralph Nader and his Green Party buddies than fixing pot holes and dealing with traffic in West L.A....

☒ **9th District** – It will be Assemblyman Carl Washington vs. former city hall staffer Jan Perry. Organized labor went with 3rd place finisher Woody Fleming and now L.A. Co. COPE has endorsed Washington. No surprise. And no shock that Fleming has endorsed Washington either. A toss up for now although Washington finished first with 34% to Perry's 29%...

☒ **13th District** – As noted previously, newcomer Eric Garcetti (son of former L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti) finished ahead of frontrunner Mike Woo in the primary. The former councilman then replaced the MWW Group (read that as Harvey Englander) with consultants Sue Burnside and Barbara Grover (Parke Skelton's former partner). L.A. Co. COPE had endorsed Scott Wildman in the primary and now they've endorsed Garcetti. Some think Garcetti has an edge, but others rate it a toss up...

☒ **15th District** – Hector Cepeda didn't have nearly as much money as frontrunner Janice Hahn (Jim's sister), but he had enough to get past the two key conservatives in the primary, Ken Hillman and Bob Nizich. Hahn finished first with 33% vs. 27% for Cepeda. Betting is that Hillman and Nizich's supporters will now switch to Hahn. Leans Hahn. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY

We have started to work on the new 2001-02 **Directory of Campaign Consultants**. This Directory is perhaps one of the most useful resources in Calif. This will be Calpeek's 8th edition. Questionnaires to consultants have been mailed. If you're a consultant and haven't received a questionnaire, better call us ASAP. Calpeek subscribers will be getting some additional info about the Directory in 10 days or so. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Insurance Commissioner's Job** – In 2002 there will be at least two non-incumbent Demos seeking this job currently held by Insurance Comm. Harry Low, who has not indicated whether he'll run in 2002. But regardless of what Low decides, former IC John Garamendi(D) has decided it would be easier to seek reelection to his old job (held from 1990-94) than to run for Secretary of State. Also looking over the IC job is Assemblyman Tom Calderon (D-58)...

■ **Note to Chris Cox: Keep Your Day Job** – As Calpeek hit deadline, a meeting was scheduled between U.S. Rep. Chris Cox(R-Orange Co.) and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D). In order for Cox to win confirmation to a seat on the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals, he's got to get past DiFi. If she OKs the as-yet-to-be announced nomination, Cox then must win U.S. Senate confirmation – and that's not a sure thing either, as any Senator can bottle up the nomination. That was done often by some GOP Senators when Bill Clinton was in the White House and we're hearing there could be some *payback*. Although DiFi is much more bi-partisan than her Calif. colleague Barbara Boxer (on record opposing Cox), it's *not* a sure bet that DiFi will sign off on Cox. Remember those news media stories which had Cox calling DiFi "old, fat & lazy."??? Those stories

surfaced in the fall of 1999. Cox strongly denied ever saying anything like that...

■ **Freeman Speaks** – Gov. Davis's new energy conservation guru David Freeman has some very outspoken views on the energy crisis. Speaking at the 1st gathering of the *City Life Forum Series* sponsored by the American Jewish Cmt. in L.A., Freeman said: 1) "If anyone thinks drilling in Alaska is the answer to the energy crisis, they are living in a dream world."; 2) "The U.S. is an energy glutton. We live by the motto of *drain America first*."; 3) "A complete free market in electricity doesn't work. This experiment in electricity was like a swan dive off a 10-story building." FYI: Freeman's replacement is David H. Wiggs Jr., who will head the DWP until September...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: long time Demo fundraiser Don L. Gevirtz has died. He was 73. In 1995, former Pres. Clinton named him ambassador to Fiji. R.I.P...

● L.A. attorney Stephen J. Kaufman of the political law firm of Smith Kaufman LLP, has been appointed chief consultant to the House Demo Caucus Special Cmt. on Election Reform...

● Veteran PR/PA pro Karen Kukurin has been hired as director of client services at Cooper Communications in the S.F. Valley...

● Curt Augustine is the new Exec. VP for CA Coalition for Construction in the Classroom(CCCC). And the Coalition has moved to 3800 Watt Ave., #138, Sacramento, CA 95821. (916)979-4855...

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